

The Division of Mental Health Services

The New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) has been focusing on helping people with mental illness live in or close to their own communities rather than in institutions. The Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS) has been designing and implementing programs that promote such independence and community living. DMHS provides life-long services and supports for adults with serious mental illness and children with severe emotional and behavioral problems. The division strives to strengthen each individual's ability to live, work, learn and socialize using a comprehensive system of care. It is designed on an individualized basis that includes community-based services for those who are able to live in the community and in-patient psychiatric services for those who cannot.

DMHS oversees and provides funding for 125 contracted community-based, non-profit agencies throughout New Jersey. These agencies are independently run and provide a variety of services for citizens with mental illness, including: emergency screening services; outpatient services; day treatment and psychosocial rehabilitation services; case management services to integrate individuals into the community; residential services, such as group homes and supervised living; legal advocacy; employment services; family support; and assistance for substance abuse. DMHS also manages consumer self-help centers. These centers provide drop-in services, such as: peer support; information and referral services; and counseling. There is now one self-help center in every county in New Jersey.

Of course, some individuals may need institutional care. For those people, DMAHS runs six psychiatric hospitals that provide in-patient mental health services to

individuals who require clinical treatment. Approximately 6,000 clients are served in the hospitals annually by 4,400 full-time employees. Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital, Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, Garrett W. Hagedorn Gero-Psychiatric Hospital and Ancora Psychiatric Hospital serve adults with mental illness. The Arthur Brisbane Child Treatment Center specifically serves youth and children with mental illness and emotional and behavioral problems. The Garrett W. Hagedorn Gero-Psychiatric Hospital has a unit to serve the elderly and the Ann Klein Forensic Center serves only those who are "Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity or Incompetent to Stand Trial," and/or have special security requirements. Ancora Hospital also operates specialty units for forensic gero-psychiatric patients, as well as for persons with the dual diagnoses of developmental disabilities and mental illness.

As part of the on-going redirection process which began in 1995, putting a larger focus on community-based treatment, DMHS began the Programs of Assertive Community Treatment

(PACT). PACT serves clients in the community with a multi-disciplinary service team approach to delivering comprehensive rehabilitation, treatment and support services to those who have the most difficulty in coping with serious and persistent mental illness. Teams were started in Bergen, Hudson, Camden and Sussex Counties in Fiscal Year 2000. PACT currently works with more than 1,400 clients to help make community living possible for them.

**FY'01 Total DMHS Budget
\$545,533,000**

